

Nation

Volume 12, No. 08 • March 4, 2005

The cover features a photograph of an elderly woman on the left and an elderly man on the right. They are standing in front of a large, illuminated teepee at night. The background is dark with some trees visible. The woman is wearing glasses and a dark top. The man is wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt.

Honouring Women from Eeyou Istchee

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A Cree Enron?

By Will Nicholls

A problem that has been going on for some time continues to bother me. Everyone in Eeyou Istchee has been talking about accountability and transparency but has anyone been doing anything about it?

It's a big question but one that we Crees need to answer. We say that foreign systems have been imposed upon us and this is what has led to many problems. I do not think we can really say that anymore. There are Crees who have taken business administration, accounting and other management skills. We have had some of these entities in place for 30 years. We must be used to them by now but the problems keep showing up.

I remember the interview with then-Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come that we published in the first issue of the Nation. At one point he talked about the various entities Crees now had, everything from the Cree School Board to CreeCo.

"It was good when we started," Coon Come said. "We did not have all these companies before. The only problem we had was the threat of megaprojects. But through the years we've created entities like the Trappers' Association, CreeCo and all its subsidiaries, the Cree School Board, Cree Health Board. They're all tabling reports and we don't have time to review them and question the way they manage and invest our money. I think it's time to change the way we govern ourselves."

It was a problem that was recognized then. In the CreeCo financial statements that we all see at the GCCEI/CRA annual General Assemblies everything seems fine. Fine, that is, until you read the way they are presented. There is one line, for instance, that reads "Investment Value." This means how much money was invested originally, not the current value of the investment.

For example, if you bought 10,000 shares of a stock such as Nortel Networks Corp. when it was running \$80 or more, the "Investment Value" would be \$800,000. Currently the shares are only worth about \$3.50 so

the "Current Value" would be \$35,000. In other words, a loss of \$764,500. As a shareholder, however, by just looking at the "Investment Value" you would think everything was alright.

Now, don't get me wrong, there is nothing illegal in this type of accounting practice under the General Accounting Practices Act if in the footnotes you include the current value of your investment.

Another slight problem brought to my attention was the insurance fund. It was set up by all the Cree communities. This great idea was that Crees were paying far too much to insure band housing and infrastructure. A fund was created and each band contributed to it for a number of years and it became self financing. That was great until the Board of Compensation opened it up to CreeCo and its subsidiaries. A number of claims by Cree businesses materialized. Crees no longer see this fund as a line item in the financial statements anymore. Does this mean that Cree homes and Band infrastructure are no longer protected? Was the fund drained by Cree businesses? At this point I and many others just don't know but it is a troubling thought.

In the same interview with Coon Come he said, "The problem is that CreeCo does its reports and tables them at the annual assembly, but they aren't passed around. I guarantee you they'll get stuck in the Chief's office. Ask your chief for a copy and see if he'll give it to you. It was probably filed somewhere. ...

"Our system is not working the way it should. We've expanded. We've created monsters and we'd better cut some heads off those monsters. If we don't, we're going to run into these types of problems you're talking about."

It has been 11 years later and some of those problems seem to have surfaced. The question is what's going to be done about it? Perhaps it is time that the CRA or the Grand Council create an independent Auditor General so we can all understand what, where and how Cree money is being used and how much we really have left.

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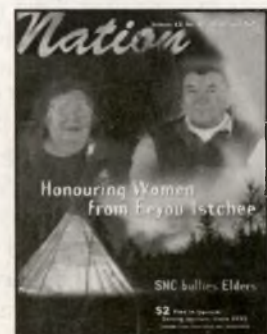
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on the cover

Elders
Charlotte & Lawrence Dixon

Photo: Lorraine Dixon

Design: L. Dixon, M. Laviolette



Quebec, Quebec

Sonny Orr



In one of my rare forays to Quebec City, I chanced upon a tavern rare, just feet away from the hotel exit. Strangely enough, the bar was half full of mainly men. I and two chums commented on the "Louie-ish" aroma that pervaded the air and brought back memories of another era, somewhere further north. After the search for the bartender, who was glued to a patron in a corner of the bar, I went back to join the chums at the table. We rambled on, oblivious to the other patrons in the room. Bravely, I called for another and had to look for the waiter again, this time pressed closely to another patron in another section of the seedy joint. I quickly figured out that this was one of those happy-hour places and then skipped the place, leaving my chums behind.

Thinking about Quebec City of the past, when I went there during the summer in the early 70s I was very impressed with the town and its ancient city dwellings. I even saw the famous, longest toboggan slide in the world, albeit in ninety degree weather (things were in Fahrenheit and colour televisions were still uncommon in those days) and vowed to return one day, this time in the winter, just to slide downhill at break-neck speed.

Sadly, I never got to fulfill that wish and I'm sure my neck is forever grateful for that. A decade later, in the 80s, I returned to stay at the famous Chateau Frontenac. I did the usual tour of the old city but I never got to see that toboggan slide, although I did get myself arrested for being able to walk in a straight line and placed in some ice jail for being sober, which further confounded my understanding of the place and of the French in general. I was forced to down some maple syrup-laced toddy, which I found to be very tasty,

and was eventually ousted from jail and back on the streets with the other carousers. Mind you, it was during some winter festival in February and was quite chilly.

Another decade passed, and it was the 90s, attending some meeting outside of Quebec at Mont Ste. Anne. Again, the chance to do the toboggan ride never materialized and I never thought that I would return to see that slide. A new millennium passed and another decade slipped by until my return to the city that flanks the Plains of Abraham and the tall cliffs that General Wolfe scaled centuries ago. Wolfe, I discovered, may have been an ancestor of mine, but that's another story. At the time of this writing, I may venture out to see if I can do the luge on a 'boggan, fulfilling a childhood dream of mine, to ride the world's longest toboggan slide. Perhaps I will find peace and happiness and have some sense of closure, knowing that I finally did what I wanted to do for 30-some odd years.

So I went sliding at the age of 40-something, much to my pleasure and exhilaration. The slide, however, seemed smaller than I had imagined, but hey, I did what I had to do and plunked down the toonie for an open air plunge at night, no less. Adrenaline pumping seat of the pants tobogganing may be old school, but it sure beats looking for a waiter on the wrong side of town any night! Highly recommendable and cheaper than the movies or DVD rental, sliding downhill does have its thrill.

Sadly, with my spirit sated with childhood yearnings safely tucked back in my sub-consciousness I left Quebec, Quebec, the next day. Perhaps I will return with the kids and let them have some fun for a change.

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Canada

FOUR WASWANIPI WOMEN CHARGED WITH THEFT, FORGERY IN CAISSE POPULAIRE SCANDAL

By Steve Bonspiel

Four former employees of the Waswanipi Caisse Populaire have been charged for stealing money from entities within the community, including two grocery stores, the day care centre, and the band office.

Pauline Icebound, Josephine Happyjack-Gull, Cynthia Saganash, and Emily Gull-Happyjack were charged February 8 by Crown prosecutor Christian Leblanc with theft of \$277,925.59, fraud and forgery of bank documents. The financial misdoings ran from January 2001 until July 2003. The four women are slated to appear in court on May 17.

The Prosecutor Leblanc was tight lipped when pressed for more information on the case. "I charged them and can only tell you what is public information. The rest will come out at a later date," he said.

The bank's manager, Claude Tremblay, didn't say much about the case either: "I can't comment on that file because I don't have the information in front of me." When told what the charges were, he said "I'll have to verify that with the local police. Until then I cannot comment on this."

Evelyn Dixon, the interim Manager at the Day Care confirmed that it was targeted by the women, but couldn't say

how much money was taken because she was not Manager at the time.

An anonymous source whose business was targeted in the fraud told the Nation that various businesses in the community were bilked of cash from their accounts at the Caisse Populaire.

They also said that it was only discovered six months later that \$30,000 was missing after some irregularities in the books. Luckily, the company was reimbursed fully by the Caisse Populaire, albeit a year and a half later.

"I couldn't believe it happened, we trusted these people and they betrayed us," said the source.

Chief Robert Kitchen also confirmed that money was taken from the band council.

"We have a very good monitoring system so we were able to catch it early," he said "There was only a small amount taken from the band, something like \$20,000 or so."

He also added that each entity in the community was fully insured and have been reimbursed by the Caisse Populaire.

Two of the four women accused had no comment on the matter.

**"I couldn't believe
it happened,
we trusted these
people and they
betrayed us."**

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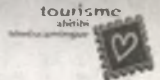
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Filmmakers Neil Diamond and Tracey Deer travel deep into the James Bay Territory to gauge the Cree response to the controversial *Paix des Braves Agreement* of 2002.



SNC bullies Waswanipi Elders to support firing range

By Steve Bonspiel and Ernest Webb

According to one Waswanipi family, SNC Technologies has sunk to a new low in the company's quest for an artillery firing range in Cree hunting and trapping territory.

Rose Dixon, daughter of Charlotte and Lawrence Dixon, says her father's trap line will be partially affected by the 105 millimetre shells that SNC TEC is hoping to test in the area. And she's furious over the company's approach to her father, who has a poor command of English.

With little support for the proposed ballistics testing site in Waswanipi and an almost sure lack of approval from the joint Cree-Quebec examination committee (COMEX), Dixon says SNC consultant Bruce Smith, with the help of former CTA President Johnny Cooper, took matters into their own hands on January 21 and allegedly tricked the Elders like her father whose trap lines would be affected into signing over their support for the project.

The company, a subsidiary of SNC-Lavalin, has asked for a 30-day extension on COMEX's findings until February 15 to give them enough time to secure the support of the tallymen on paper.

"I asked my dad, 'What did you sign?' He said it's to support Malcolm Dixon to protect the hunting in his territory and to protect the trapline," said Dixon. "I told Bruce Smith to show me what he signed and it didn't say that at all. It said that my dad didn't have anything against the shooting range in the traplines, and that he basically supported the project. Smith didn't say anything and he was red like a tomato."

Bruce Smith disagreed. "It's strange

she would say that because first of all Lawrence speaks English and I had a translator that went through the whole thing in great detail," said Smith. "By saying that he signed something he didn't understand I can't believe that because we had a very nice discussion

"Native culture, in my opinion, is not using these thousands of acres of land as a private campground twice a year. I'm sure some of these people would get lost as they got off the highway."

and I have a lot of respect for him."

Smith also thinks the project's opponents are exaggerating the risks it poses to Cree culture.

"Some of the people who are speaking openly against the project said they are trying to retain the Native culture," said Smith. "Well, Native culture, in my opinion, is not using these thousands of acres of land as a private campground twice a year. I'm not talking about the tallymen who use it for goose break. I'm sure some of these people would get lost as soon as they got off the highway."

Lawrence Dixon, 72, says he was coerced by the two men. "What

Johnny told me was that 'everyone agreed to it,'" Dixon said. "And the people who signed were helping Malcolm, my brother, so that they take care of his land and not to destroy it. 'They signed it, so will you sign?' So I told him, 'Yes I will sign because it's also part of my land.'"

Dixon also feels that Bruce Smith doesn't seem to listen to people. "A lot of people aren't happy and now I don't know what will happen. They say it will still go through no matter what. If it does, I don't think the moose or bear will be around anymore."

"They come and lie to us," said Dixon's wife Charlotte. "They say, 'This is what we will do... Whatever you need, we'll give you. We'll clean up the creeks. We'll fix the roads if they flood with culverts.' That's what they said but I don't believe it."

Charlotte says her husband was told he would be standing with his brother so that his land wouldn't be destroyed. "That's why he signed," she said.

Flora Blacksmith, Waswanipi's Deputy Chief, said she's disturbed by the revelations.

"I was surprised that Bruce Smith was around. I thought it was put on the shelf for awhile until all this was settled," she said.

"Mr. Smith should have notified the council, he should have showed us whatever he wanted to present to these tallymen so we'd be aware. People that come around to do a survey or study always go by the band and ask permission. They let us know what they're going to do. I think he should have done that."

Blacksmith also had her doubts

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about a \$400 cheque that was issued to Lawrence Dixon for his visit to Nicolet.

"I told Rose that I was surprised that he got a travel claim cheque," said Blacksmith, who was also sent with a small Waswanipi group to a firing range site in Nicolet to see how it works. "I never received one and it was strange that he only got that cheque almost a year later," she said.

She added that compensation for the visit was never discussed or proposed by SNC-Technologies.

Bruce Smith claimed that the check was for consultations by the tallymen and had nothing to do with travel expenses.

The whole ordeal led Rose Dixon to write to Chief Robert Kitchen and the band council asking them launch an investigation into the affair. According to a copy obtained by the *Nation*, the complaint states that her father wasn't told the truth about what was on the document and it was only in English, which he does not read. They also did not leave him with a copy.

"My dad was manipulated to the maximum," said Rose. "He always said no to this project and he always told me 'if they give us a big amount of money this money will be spent, but the land can never be spent, so it's better to keep the land.' When I told him what it said he seemed embarrassed and just told me to be quiet, that there was nothing to do because everyone signed."

Bruce Smith was not swayed. "After telling the tallymen all the details, they see absolutely no problem with our project because we're not taking resources and we're not destroying the land," he said.

Smith figures that \$250,000 annually will be paid out in security contracts to the Cree that will most likely result in 12 full- and part-time workers. The project will last for at least 30 years. He also said that a new cabin or road would be built for the

tallymen affected.

"The point of the matter is it's our land and we can do with it what we want," said Rose.

Cree Nation deals with another suicide

A 12-year-old girl is the latest in a long line of tragic suicides that has struck the Cree Nation – this time in Whapmagoostui.

The girl, who cannot be identified because of her age, was found in her own home just after 8 pm February 19.

Police spokesperson Ruth Mastay said they were not aware of a motive at press time.

Whapmagoostui youth charged with murder after shooting

The community of Whapmagoostui is in shock after two people were shot at, one of which succumbed to his wounds a few hours later.

Timothy Fleming fought unsuccessfully for his life after a February 9 shooting that occurred at 2:30 am on the Inuit side of town and involved two suspects.

The shooter, a minor who cannot be identified, shot Fleming in the head and side with a shotgun, according to Whapmagoostui Police Director Roger Sandy. There were five shots fired in all and a second minor was rushed to hospital with non-life threatening wounds.

Allie Tooktoo, 22, is being charged with second-degree murder for his role in Fleming's death. Although he was not the shooter, Tooktoo allegedly began beating Fleming after he was shot, Sandy told the *Nation*.

The shooter is being charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder, using a firearm to commit murder, and discharging a firearm. Both suspects will be held until their trial date, which has not yet been set.

"I was devastated and shocked,"

said Director Sandy, who is aiding the Kativik Regional Police. "But at the same time I had to stay calm and help out in the situation. It's very hard as an officer when you receive these calls. It's not like Montreal where they don't care, we know everyone here and responding to a call when you know these victims and suspects is hard to do."

"I just want to remind people to safely store their shotguns at all times."

The Surete de Quebec has since taken over the investigation.

Billy Diamond, Hall of Famer



Photo: Will Nicholls

Billy Diamond became one of the first members of the new Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame when he was inducted February 15.

Diamond was inducted in Toronto along with Irvin Goodon, a Métis from Boissevin, Manitoba by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB).

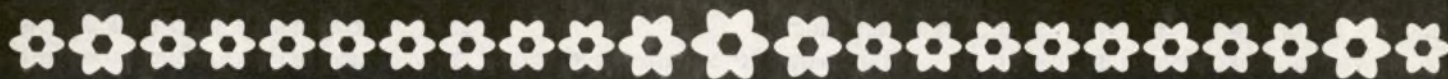
Diamond played a prominent role in founding companies such as Creeco, Cree Construction and Development, Cree Yamaha Motors, Moosonee Transportation Ltd., Trans Arctic Shipping and Gas and other firms.

He currently sits on the Niskamoon board that was created to amalgamate and help administrate the different agreements signed between the Cree and Hydro-Quebec, along with training Crees to work in certain aspects for the Quebec conglomerate. Billy Diamond could not be reached for comment.

continued on page 15

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By Tracey Deer



Eeyou Istchee is filled with many inspirational women who don't always get the credit they deserve. March 8th marks International Women's day, a time to celebrate the creators of life and our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and aunts. In this issue we profile four very different women with one common trait – personal strength.



courtesy of Rita Rabbitskin

✿ Rita Rabbitskin: Flying higher and higher ✿

Mistissini's Rita Rabbitskin decided as a little girl that she was going to be a pilot, much to the amazement of her friends and family. Yet, as soon as she was old enough to pursue her dream with fervor, everyone exclaimed, "Wow, she really is going to do it!"

For Rita, it was never a flippant childhood dream. As soon as she finished high school, she attended John Abbott

College in Montreal to study general science. From there, she took flying courses at Laurentide Aviation for two years, where her determination was unwavering.

She was pregnant with her first child during her schooling and, just before exams she rushed home to give birth to a healthy baby boy. Two days later, she was back in class to take her tests!

"I'm trying to do everything I can so that I can say I've tried everything. It's an amazing feeling to achieve what you've set out to do."

Upon graduation, she returned home to Mistissini to work as a bush pilot, transporting trappers, prospectors, and other clients. She counts herself among the lucky for being able to land a job that allowed her to be home every night, which is a rare luxury for a pilot.

"I'm trying to do everything
I can so that I can say I've
tried everything. It's an
amazing feeling to achieve
what you've set out to do."

But Rita still dreamed of another type of flying – she wanted to fly a "chopper!" Not one to give up, she set off back to school, this time in Quebec City. Occasionally, she had to hear sexist or racist remarks in the male-dominated field but she let them bounce right off her.

"Actions speak louder than words," she says. "In the end, it shows who can stick it out." While pregnant with her second son, Rita mastered the flying beast and graduated with pride. And now she's set another goal for herself. She wants to work for Air Creebec, to see the beautiful landscape of Eeyou Istchee from even greater heights.



A Proud Rita Rabbitskin on Grad Day

Susan Esau:

Dealing with life's many battles



Nation Archives

Susan Esau of Waskaganish is a survivor and a role model for us all. She has had to face many excruciating hardships throughout her life. Despite the sorrow, she has remained strong and has committed herself to helping others heal from their own personal tragedies.

She spends much of her time working with the Waskaganish Wellness Centre, helping with its many programs and workshops. Her compassion for people who are hurting stems from her own personal experience with grief.

Susan's first harrowing test came when she was placed in a residential school as a little girl. Being away from her family and stripped of her culture were not the only injustices she lived with; she also suffered many vile ordeals at the hands of her caregivers.

When she returned home as a teenager, she was a very angry person. She used drugs and alcohol to help escape the painful memories of her past. But when her first son began abusing substances too, she knew things needed to change.

"I realized that I couldn't help my son until I helped myself."

But Susan had more hardships to endure: she lost her two sons, one to suicide and one to heart failure. She had to deal with an immeasurable amount of grief and pain. But she didn't give up.

"There are too many unnecessary tragedies. There are times when it seems like everything is working against you – but it won't last. Things will get better. That's what my life has been like."

She feels strongly that people need to seek out healing because problems are being passed down to the next generation. She is committed to helping people reclaim the self-esteem that was stolen so many years ago, because only when one can love oneself can the Cree people move forward.



**Healthy
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Nourish the body and
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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



Bonanza Beef Casserole

1 pound	extra-lean ground beef	454g
1 four oz.	small potato	125g
1 cup	shredded low-fat Mozzarella cheese	250 ml
1	medium onion, chopped	150g
2	cloves garlic, minced	5ml
1 can	diced tomatoes (make sure the label says "no salt added"; do not drain)	435g
1 tbsp	chili powder	15ml
2 cups	shredded cabbage	50ml
1 to 3 tbsp	taco sauce	15-45ml
	salt and pepper to taste	

1. Preheat your oven to 375 F. Lightly coat a 2-quart (2 litre) casserole dish with cooking spray.

2. Peel and grate the potato into a bowl. Stir in 1/4 cup (29g) of the low-fat mozzarella cheese. Spread evenly over the bottom of the prepared casserole dish and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until potato is browned and crispy.

3. At the same time, brown your ground beef, with the onion and garlic added (break up the meat with a wooden spoon) in a large non-stick skillet. Drain all the excess fat, and then stir in the tomatoes with their juice, the chili powder and the cabbage. Sauté, stirring often, for one to two minutes. (If this mixture seems too dry, add in one tablespoon of the taco sauce. Repeat as needed.) Season with salt and pepper to taste.

4. When your potatoes are done, spoon the beef mixture onto the potatoes and top with remaining cheese. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, until the casserole is hot and bubbly. This dish is best when served immediately. Makes 6 servings.

Tip: Beef can be replaced with moose, caribou, goose or deer. Adjust cooking times to compensate.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION PER SERVING:

Calories: 235, Protein: 24g, Total fat: 11g, Saturated fat: 4.8g,
Carbohydrates: 12g, Dietary Fibre: 2g, Cholesterol: 38mg, Potassium:
471mg, Sodium: 357mg.



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Margaret Cromarty: Blending two worlds together with ease

Chisasibi's Margaret Cromarty, 68, is a woman of the world, but her heart has always belonged to the land and waters of her hometown. It was this passion for her surroundings that catapulted her into cities across North America when she decided to share her soul with others through poetry.

She found that writing came easily to her, allowing her to explore the duality she felt about her identity. Over the years, Margaret has watched the Cree lose a lot of their land and traditional ways, much to her sorrow. But, she admits, many of the changes have been unavoidable.

While education and health care have been a blessing, the social problems associated with "the white man's way" have been very disheartening.

Through three books of poetry, published in 1992, 1994, and 1999, Margaret decided to capture both the happy and sad moments of her life as a Cree woman. Her books brought her to visit many universities across Canada and the United States, where she was able to further share her experiences and raise awareness.

"It's good to dream. I tried something new and it worked out. Now I'm able to share what I'm most proud of: being a Native person."



Nation Archives

She continued to share her culture by opening up a camp for tourists. She operated the business with her husband for four years before deciding to retire. Within that time span, she welcomed people from all over the world as far away as Palestine and Egypt. As with all good times, there is usually good food and Margaret estimates that she's cooked a total of 51,000 traditional meals!

While retirement might mean a bit more relaxation, Margaret has no plans to stop expressing herself. Today, she has moved on to painting the country she loves so dearly: Eeyou Istchee.

Phoebe Sutherland: Bringing traditional Cree cooking to the big city

Mistissini's Phoebe Sutherland knows all about the trials and thrills that are involved in chasing a dream. She has known since high school what she wanted to do: create and run a restaurant that would celebrate Native cuisine.

Her journey began in college, where she studied hotel and restaurant management. Afterward, because her real passion was for cooking, she studied at the Culinary Institute of Vermont. As part of her studies, she further developed her idea for her restaurant.



Photo by Will Nicholls

Upon graduation, she worked in restaurants in Boston, Maine, and Arizona, where she learned some hard facts about the business. Men dominated the field and it would take years for her to climb to the position she knew she was born to fill – head chef.

Instead of resigning herself to the way the system worked, she decided to live by her own rules. In 2002, she moved to Ottawa, pulled up her sleeves, and began the process of opening her very own restaurant.

"Opening a business is hard work," Phoebe says. "I'm here day and night. But dreams do come true as long as you keep up and don't give up."

Through hard work and dedication, she opened the doors of the Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro in November 2003 to rave reviews. One month later, Ottawa magazine *Where* declared Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro the Best New Restaurant of the year, a title it won again from the City of Ottawa in 2004.

Phoebe couldn't be happier that her efforts have proven to be successful. Her greatest pleasure is hearing the positive comments from her customers and greeting her "regulars." She is especially proud that her restaurant and its success are a positive reflection for all Native people across Canada.

But this is only the beginning as she has bigger plans for the future. She hopes to eventually open other Sweetgrass restaurants across the country and, when time finally permits, to devote her time and energy to her biggest dream of all: starting a family.



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New Name & Logo CONTEST

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Guidelines:

Enter together or separately or just name or just logo...

Will offer \$1000 for name selected and \$1000 for logo selected

Must be 3 colors or less with blue as one of the colors.

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Should reflect services JBCCS provides
print (past), radio (today), television (tomorrow)

Deadline for submissions: March 31, 2005.

Send to: James Bay Cree Communications Society
c/o Name & Logo contest
75 Riverside Street
Mistissini, Que.
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***not open to Board of Directors/staff of JBCCS or immediate family ***



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The induction took place at the CCAB's Circle for 2015 Annual Gala Dinner at the Toronto Four Seasons Hotel.

Security at northern dams easily compromised

Two hours and 14 minutes. That's how much time Chisasibi residents would have to evacuate their community before it was totally submerged in water if anything happened to the LG-2 dam, according to Hydro-Quebec.

That's an especially troubling fact considering the Radio-Canada television report – that Hydro-Quebec tried, and failed, to keep off the air – which showed journalists were able to roam freely within the compound, undetected by security. That and subsequent reports led to abrupt changes in security at Manic-5 and LG-2.

The original report, which aired February 15, showed the Radio-Canada crew driving through underground tunnels into the heart of two major dams. It also showed them discovering a series of unlocked doors and gaining access to different rooms, most notably a room with control panels that sends electricity to Quebec and the United States.

Not one security guard was shown in the program. It was also noted that the crew did not see any surveillance cameras.

Hydro-Quebec President Andre Caille's first response was to accuse Radio-Canada journalist Christian Latreille of gaining access to the site through some of Hydro's workers.

"I was quite surprised that people were able to walk in, and drive into Hydro installations," said Chisasibi Chief Abraham Rupert. "I thought it was more secure than that. There's a lot of stress hanging over Chisasibi if anything ever happened to the dams and this just added to that. Although now security has tightened up since then."

"I've spoken with Hydro and they assured me that our people that hunt near there will not be bothered when trying to get across the dams with their

firearms," added Chief Rupert.

Chisasibi Elder Margaret Cromarty was alarmed as well. "I was shocked when I heard that. It means that anyone could walk in there and open the gates. We would drown like the 10,000 caribou."

Public Security Minister Jacques Chagnon told the Surete de Quebec to look into the situation.

"They will analyze the security procedures and protocols that Hydro-Quebec uses, it will be an audit of the quality of those procedures," Chagnon told reporters outside a Liberal caucus meeting in Montebello, Qc.

AFN joins federal tax commission

Wondering whether you're tax exempt for a recent purchase? Or how much money you're entitled to for Child Tax Credits? These and other questions will be answered by a new First Nations Advisory Committee.

Federal Minister of National Revenue John McCallum and Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine announced the creation of the committee February 1 to identify and address tax and benefit administration issues affecting Aborigines.

"I am committed to ensuring that the Canada Revenue Agency does its part to build new partnerships with First Nations," Revenue Minister McCallum said in a press release. "This committee will help the CRA ensure

its procedures and services effectively support First Nations peoples in accessing benefits such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the GST/HST credit while recognizing their rights to certain tax exemptions."

AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine added, "It is true that Canada's Constitution and the historic treaties between First Nations and Canada create a unique situation for our peoples, and this is not always well understood. This advisory committee will be a useful and constructive forum to discuss issues of mutual concern and, ideally, resolve any issues before they become problematic. This is a positive example of partnership in action."

Cree film on AIP makes debut

A Cree film chronicling the signing of the Paix des Braves Agreement – aptly titled *One More River* – made its French language debut at the Cinematheque Quebecoise February 19.

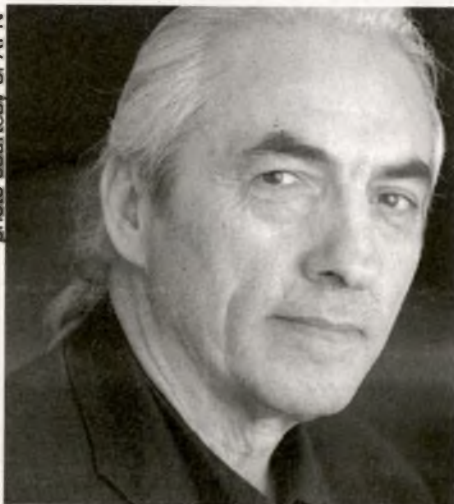
Produced by Rezolution Pictures, a Cree company, the documentary takes viewers on a journey through the eyes of two trappers, a Cree activist and people representing the overall state of Eeyou Istchee. It culminates with the historic signing of the \$3.5 billion agreement and Ted Moses shaking hands with then-Premier Bernard Landry.

It was well received by the audience of about 100 people, roughly half of whom were Cree. Some of the people came to see themselves on the big screen.

The thought-provoking documentary focuses on the speed with which the agreement was announced, voted on and signed – all in a short, four-month span. It illustrates the divide between the proponents of the project – the Grand Council of the Cree – and those who vocally opposed it.

It also talks about the diminishing land base and lack of economic opportunities for Cree youth, who currently make up about 60 per cent of the population.

For those who missed it, you can check out parts 1 and 2 on APTN March 26 and April 2, both at 7 pm.



AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine

photo courtesy of AFN



Short Story Contest



Over the past few decades, traditional fishing and fish consumption has declined considerably. As a consequence, many Cree of this generation eat less fish than the generations of the past. As a part of keeping this tradition alive, we are proud to offer this short story contest, "Our Goal is to restore and strengthen Cree fisheries for Cree aspirations and needs." **Niskamoon Corporation** is proud to now publish the stories by Dion Clark Mianscum, winner of the 1st Place prize (12-18 age category) and Margaret Orr, 1st Place and Grand Prize (18 and up category). Congratulations Dion and Margaret! To all our participants, Meegwetch!



Photo: Ernest Webb

My Special Place With Grandpa, Albert Mianscum (Ages 12 - 18) - By Dion Clark Mianscum.



When I was a young boy between the ages of two and five years old, I grew up in the bush with my grandparents. We would stay in the bush most of the year. At a very young age, my grandpa, Albert taught me to hunt, fish and respect the nature around me. He always told me never to take more from the land than what we needed. I really enjoyed my time in the bush with my grandpa, because we always had something to do together, like hunting or fishing. For the both of us, fishing was the best part of our

hunting trip. Fishing became my hobby with my grandpa.

Every day we would get on the boat and go fishing with our fishing rods. I can remember all our laughter and smiles on our faces when we caught a fish on our rods. He always knew where to catch the best fish or the biggest fish. Whenever he would take me to a special spot, he would tell me "this is our special spot, don't ever tell anyone of our special spot". When we would head home in the evening after our fishing trip, Gookum, Emmo would clean our fish and start cooking it for our supper. Eating fish

was what grandpa and gookum enjoyed the most. It was their main source of strength and living.

When grandpa knew that the following day would take us to a different route, he always made sure that we set up a net before heading home for the evening. When it was time to get on the boat a few days later to check on our net, we always caught beautiful suckers, whitefish and pikes. Walleyes were always harder to catch on the net, but we were never disappointed with our fishing trip. Grandpa was always thankful for our daily food.



Short Story Contest

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Photo: Nation Archives

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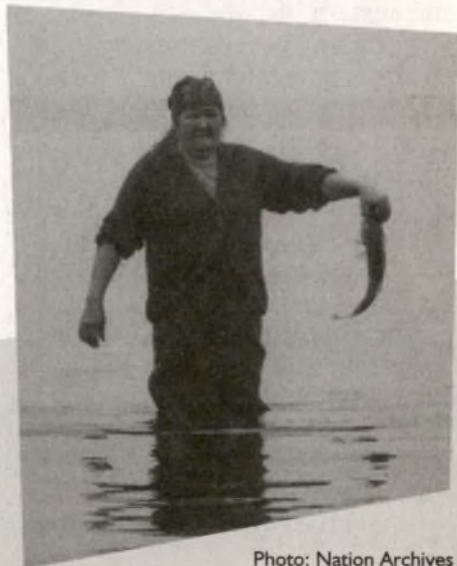
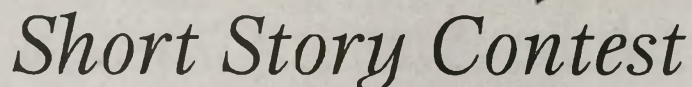
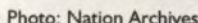


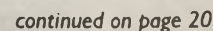
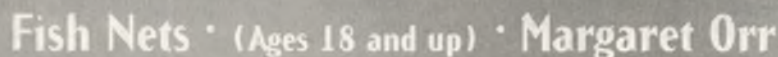
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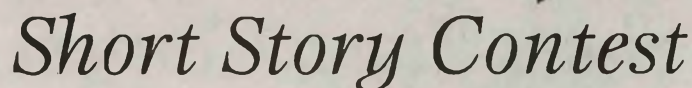
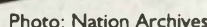
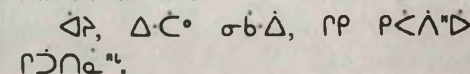
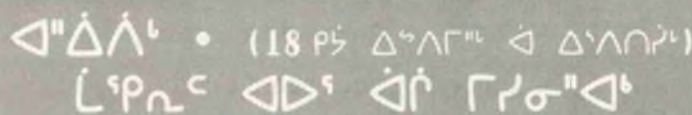


Today, fishing is not as good as it was in our hunting ground, due to the contamination in our fish and lakes, but it doesn't stop me from eating fish, because my dad brings fish home from his hunting ground.



In closing, my grandpa, Albert Mianscum passed away on September 23, 2000. Today, I still enjoy fishing. I go often as I can with my family or with friends. Fishing is special to me, because it brings back all the wonderful memories I had with my grandpa when I was in the bush with him. There are times, when I go to our hunting ground and I go to ``Our special place'', I take the time to stop and remember all the laughter I had with grandpa, Albert.



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19



Short Story Contest

continued from page 18

gotten to keep the canoe close to the net and we had drifted away from it. With a giggle, we paddled back to the net to finish our job of checking the net. After placing the last white-

hands up to her shoulders with her fingers in the gills of the char as my niece struggled to hold on to the wide slippery tail. Together they walked up the bank to the tipi with

feasted on the arctic char. Some of us were so full and left what we couldn't eat on our plates. Later, I went around and gathered the leftovers together in a bowl for our del-



Photo: Nation Archives

fish into the pail, I paddled back to shore while Mom sat facing backwards to look at the arctic char lying at the bottom of the canoe.

As usual, the children rushed to our landing spot to see what we had caught. The ohs and ahs and the "Who is that," poured from their mouths.

Mom explained to the children that arctic char live in the most northern areas of James Bay and all the way up the Hudson Bay and further. She also told them that sometimes arctic char stray this far south as they follow their diet of small fish.

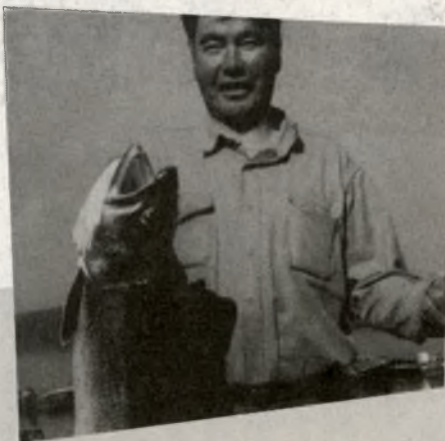
My nephew poked the char in the belly with his little finger. The char's flesh was firm with fat. My mouth began to water. My favourite part of the fish is the belly. I know a bit about the benefits of fish meat and there in front of me, in the pail and on the canoe floor, lay a whole bunch of proteins, omega-three fats, and calcium.

I watched as my little niece helped my mother lift the arctic char out of the canoe. Mom had her

me following close behind carrying the pail of whitefish and sea trout.

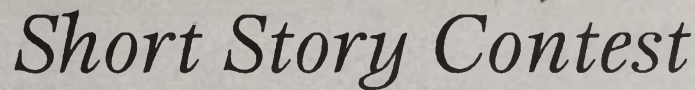
Grandmother was waiting on the stump by the tipi and quickly stood up when she saw the fish hanging from mom's hands. She kept saying over and over again that she had not seen such a fish for a long time. While grandmother sat in the grass to watch the cleaning of the char, her right hand followed the movement of mom's hand when she slit open the fish.

That afternoon eleven people



icacy of Shikumin, cooked, flaked fish mixed with black berries or blueberries and sometimes a touch of salt. I wanted to serve it with the smoked fish and raisin bannock at supper time. Supper would be in a few hours so I sent the children to pick berries close by. Mom and I smoked the fish in the tipi and talked about our adventure that morning with the arctic char. I felt so alive with all the fish nutrients I had been feeding my body as I walked to the waters edge to clean our fish pail and knives. The inedible parts of the fish returned to the water, a part of the cycle of life in a delicate ecosystem.

With the arctic char digested, I felt its warmth spread throughout my body. As my eyes closed, I lay in my sleeping bag on the floor of spruce boughs in our tent and I could still see the glistening arctic char flopping about in my mother's grasp as she stood up in the canoe. The smile on her face was so bright, I was sure the children could see her from the shore.





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Important Notice to Employers

Need summer help? Hire a student!

The Summer Career Placements initiative, a key element of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy, provides wage subsidies to help employers hire students for 6 to 16 weeks during the summer. Private, public and not-for-profit employers are invited to submit their application by:

Friday, April 1, 2005

This initiative aims to provide students with work experience related to their field of study. Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility criteria, regional and local priorities, the quality of the work experience offered, as well as budget availability.

To apply or to find out more about this initiative, please contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada or call
1 800 935-5555.

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Photo: Kenny Dixon

Celebrating Women in EEYOU ISTCHEE

by Norman Fireman

In this issue the Nation marks March 8th, International Women's Day, by asking people in Eeyou Istchee about the women they look up to and why.

Marjorie Mark of Eastmain: When I was asked who are the women I admire most or look up to, I thought I would not only choose one. I would say this: I admire any woman who's working full time and who's a mother and a grandmother. I have a lot of admiration and respect for these women. They really know how to juggle their time and their energy seems endless. They work all day, then they go home and then they start their other jobs as mothers, grandmothers and wives. They take care of the meals, laundry, cleaning and whatever else needs to be done, they answer questions and help with the homework. They get things for the sports games their children play. And then they still have time to go to meetings of committees they sit on.

These women are the ones working at schools as coordinators, directors, principals, vice-principals, secretaries. Most of all they are mothers who have patience, love, care and endless energy. To all working women, have a happy Women's Day on March 8th. Especially to my two daughters and all the female teachers/staff of W.E.S.

Chisasibi's Jimmy R. Fireman: I honour my late mother, Daisy, who

gave me life, who cared for me and loved me, and taught me the traditional ways. I honour my best friend and spiritual partner, Kathleen, who taught me to love unconditionally. I honour my three daughters, Patricia, Sheila, Kathryn and also my 14-month-old granddaughter, Anabel. They have taught me that Aboriginal women have a natural beauty, inside and outside. In general I respect all women.

Shirley Diamond from Waskaganish: One of the women I look up to is Josephine Diamond. She's close to 80 years now and she's still living like in the old days. She is still practicing the Cree traditional ways. She still goes out in the bush, she's very active for her age. I respect her a lot. I also respect my daughter, she has two beautiful daughters. I really admire the way she's raising her kids. I look up to my mother and she still goes in the bush too. She preserves the traditional ways of life and I respect her for that.

Norman Miamianskum of Whapmaagoostui: I look up to my wife. She's taught me to make the right decisions whenever I'm faced with daily problems. When I was drinking a lot, she was always there for me to

Pulse of the Nation



Lillian Rabbitskin from Chisasibi



Christiana Saganash Elder from Waswanipi



Mabel Herodier from Chisasibi



Nancy Danyluk from Wemindji

Photos: Nation Archives

continued on page 25

Actors wanted Actors wanted Actors
wanted Actors wanted Actors wanted

Rezolution Pictures is looking for actors for the second season of Dab-Iyiyuu. Dab Iyiyuu is a show that visits Elders in their traditional activities and is featured on APTN. We need actors for the re-creations of the Elders stories. We will be shooting the re-creations in Mistissini between **Late March and Late May**.

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help me cope with the problem. I think if she wasn't there I'd still be drinking. She also helps me out in other areas of my life, even financially, although I work. She helps a lot to keep the family together and I respect her for that.

Valerie Gunner of Mistissini: I look up to my aunts, Minnie and Charlotte, because they're very loving people, kind and very generous. They care about a lot of people and I look up to them for that. They're always there for me when I need advice so I won't have a bad day.

Isaac Masty of Whapmaagoostui: I look up to my wife. When we started living together we weren't any different from the young people of today. I was really drinking a lot in those days and it affected our family life, especially our children. With all the things she had to put up with, now when I think back I realize that women are very strong, sometimes stronger than a man. I lost my father and one of our kids when our house burnt down, including my sister. That was the hardest that I ever had to face. She helped me cope with our loss. I'm very thankful that I have found somebody as a friend and a loving wife to help me in many areas of my life. Sometimes I wonder if I had been with another person I'd probably be single by now. She's always there for our family and me as well. I can truly say that I'm very happy for our daughters too. They are very independent as we taught them never to lean on anybody else. They deal with their problems and I respect them for that.

Chisasibi's Doris Bobbish: I looked to my late mom. She taught me how to connect between a mother and daughter. And the other person was the late Mina Tapiatic. She taught me how to be a good woman and a wife. I'm very thankful that I had the opportunity to meet her. When she was young she hadn't known white people. All her teachings were from the very grassroots of our people. The other person was Mother Theresa, she was totally

enlightened in everything she did and that was an inspiration for me.

Diane Snowboy of Chisasibi: I looked up to my sister-in-law Nancy Snowboy because she helped me a lot when I was going through marital problems. Whenever I used to feel down she would help me get back on my feet. I thank her for all the help and advice she gave me.

Linda Gunner from Waswanipi: I look up to my late mom. She decided to go to university and get a degree. Eventually she got a job. She was very independent. She gave me the inspiration to go on and get what I want in my life. I thank her for that.

"I'm very thankful that I had the opportunity to meet her. When she was young she hadn't known white people. All her teachings were from the very grassroots of our people."

Alice Rhondou of Chisasibi: I look up to my mom. She's done so much for the family. My parents together have done a lot for our family. She's giving up so much to make sure my brother gets a good education. She's always worked very hard and she's always helped a lot of people. I think of her when I try to make decisions, she's good at dealing with things.

Nancy Danyluk from Wemindji: I looked up to my late grandmother, my father's mother. She used to give me advice. Today I still use the things she taught me 41 years ago. I see all the things she predicted today. She's probably my guardian angel right now. She also taught me the difference between right and wrong. She used to say that even if you don't believe what other people say, at least listen, you will still be on the right path. She was a very kind and loving person who loved her grandchildren very much.

Eastmain Chief Edward Gilpin: We would like to thank and recognize our two daughters. Victoria Gilpin, and Stella Ratt in Chisasibi and our daughter-in-law Brenda Gilpin. We want to thank you from the very bottom of our hearts for being the best, loving, caring mothers to your children.

Judy Cooper from Waswanipi: I look up to my mom first of all. And also to Violet Pachano. She started out as a corporate secretary and she moved up. She climbed the ladder to executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees and then she became the first Cree woman Chief of Eeyou Istchee. Then she also became the deputy grand chief. Now she works as a consultant. She's really done a lot for the people. I really admire her because she's a good role model for the Cree woman, not only for the Cree woman but also for the women of all Nations.

George L. Diamond, originally from Waskaganish: I want to recognize these women for their work: In education, Janet Mark, who is continuously finding ways for our youth and native people to continue their education in Val d'Or at the university level. She has opened many doors so Native people can study close to home and their people.

In health, Bella Moses Petawabano. She has worked for close to 30 years to improve our personal health and health services for all Cree people in Eeyou Istchee. She is a caring woman and a positive role model that Cree people can be proud of.

In the Cree language and cultural developmental programs, Daisy Bearskin Herodier continues to ensure that Cree children will be privileged to learn their mother tongue along with our Cree history and knowledge. Individual Cree pride is gained and promoted when Cree people know their history, language and culture.

To these Cree women, thank you for what you have accomplished and exemplified by your commitment, dedication, and hard work.

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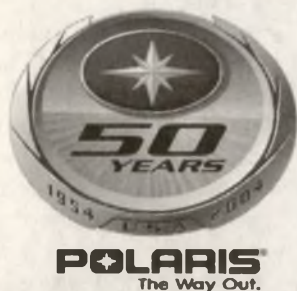
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STORIES CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



photo courtesy of
Chisasibi Cultural Department

St. Philip's Residential School circa early 1960's

Stories concerning Residential Schools – *The Nation* (February 18, 2005 issue)

Having attended residential school like so many Aboriginal children from all different Nations across this country; I am encouraged to see that "Our people" have found the courage to stand up and fight to regain the dignity that was stolen from them.

For too many years, we have lived with the painful memories in silence and in shame. I am most pleased that the Grand Council has commissioned a task force to undertake the tremendous job of meeting people from the Eeyou Istchee; to look into how we can proceed to overcome the genocide that was done to generations of the Eeyou Nation.

We are very resilient people, we are strong people. We have survived many hardships from the years in these schools and the years that followed. Many of us have come to really understand the root of our addiction problems and how we can heal using our own medicines. The wisdom and knowledge is right here among our elders, our own people.

"Building our Nation" is a term that is often used amongst the politicians in Eeyou Istchee; and I agree, we did "build our Nation." I acknowledge the accomplishments of our leaders of our communities past and present in this regard. We have come a long way since the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. We have progressed very rapidly in terms of education, health, infrastructure, and policies to govern ourselves.

Now that we have the resources and the facilities, we can focus on the healing and the wellness of our people. We can continue on our "Nation Building" by investing our time and money on our most important assets which are our grandchildren, our children, our youth.

**We need to make
our children and youth
understand that they
are valued and loved.
We cannot wait for more
tragedies to happen**

We have come this far, I truly believe that we can proceed with the healing and rebuilding of our relationships with our families and communities.

We will continue to teach the future generations our values, traditions and culture in our homes and in our schools. We can most importantly educate them about our own history, not just what we view as important but all of it. The residential school era is an important element of our history both the positive and the negative. Other significant events that shaped our Nation socially, economically and politically will help them better understand who they are as Eeyouch. We can assist them through inspiration and education and so they will feel important and respected, most of all proud to be Eeyou.

When I reflect on the lives lost from

suicides and other alcohol related incidents, I often ask myself "was there something more that we could have done to prevent this tragedy." We all hurt when we hear of these unnecessary deaths. How many of us ask ourselves the same question: "Are we doing enough?" I support the Task Force Committee on Residential Schools and the communities in their recommendation to hold a conference on residential schools. I believe this is a first step in determining how we will proceed in the healing and rebuilding our relationships with our family and communities. The conference will take us a step further in our aspirations of Building our Nation. We need to make our children and youth understand that they are valued and loved. We cannot wait for more tragedies to happen.

I plead with the leaders of all the communities to place healing and wellness of our communities as a top priority on their immediate agendas.

Lastly, I say "meeg-wetch" to those who have shared their comments and stories in the Nation. I would like to acknowledge the Task Force committee members: Jack Blacksmith, Billy Diamond, Kenny Loon, Abel Kitchen, Charles Esau and a beautiful woman named Nellie Bearskin-House; I am truly grateful for your hard work.

As I finished writing this piece, I heard news of another tragic loss of a young girl. I am deeply saddened and cannot keep my tears from flowing.

Susan Esau,
February 20, 2005



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REVENUE CANADA WILL TAX NATIVE STUDENTS' INCOME

Cree students immune under JBNQA

By Steve Bonspiel

Native post-secondary students should be aware – some of them will have to start paying taxes on their income, possibly as early as 2006.

Documents obtained by *the Nation* say that Revenue Canada will tax Aboriginal post-secondary education (PSE) students who make more than \$16,000 in income as of the 2006 school year. This includes tuition, allowance, bursaries, travel dollars and whatever they might make working part time to support their educational pursuits.

The issue arose last year, when Revenue Canada found out that Natives were not paying tax on their PSE income because they thought it was a treaty right. The truth, as far as Dawna Labonte of Revenue Canada is concerned, is that that money was given to Natives as a "social policy" and therefore it's taxable.

"If an amount is earned under a treaty it's not taxable; if an amount is earned outside of a treaty agreement, it's taxable," Labonte said.

"It was a mistake in interpretation on our part and we're working with the government so it has as little effect as possible," she said.

The new measure was supposed to have been implemented in 2004 but was put on hold thanks to pressure from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and from a petition of over 12,000 names that was presented in the House of Commons.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada spokeswoman Diane Larson was surprised to hear Revenue Canada had made an error. "I don't know what information Revenue Canada was operating from before, but PSE has always been under social policy."

The news angered the Cree School Board's Chairman, William Mianscum.

"Every time taxation is brought out, it makes Native people in general

jump. It's a word we just don't want to hear in the Cree world or the Aboriginal world in general. Every time we hear it we want to fight it," he said.

"We were very disturbed by the proposed legislation. Our legal council gave us their legal opinion that it may be true that it's a social program, but under the Cree School Board, the program that's set up for our post-secondary students is a program that was established under a treaty agreement between Canada, Quebec and the Crees – the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Because of that, PSE is not taxable. It's entrenched in

**"It was a
mistake in
interpretation
on our part and
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so it has as
little effect
as possible,"
Revenue Canada
spokesperson**

the constitution and is not a social program, so our students don't have to worry."

Nadine Solomon, 21, is one Cree student who might be affected by the change. From Fort Albany, Ontario, and attending Carleton University in Ottawa, she does not have the luxury of being covered under a treaty that guarantees PSE schooling.

"I didn't think it [the tax hike] was necessary because we don't get enough for school anyways," she said. "With it being taxed, it would give us more problems," said Solomon, who receives less than \$1,500 for each school year from her band.

"And that's not enough. I have to pay for some of the books I need. I'm enrolled in chemistry and each book costs over \$100," she said, adding that her parents paid for the books she needed in the past since she did not have a job.

"It's not going to affect me as much because I'll be finishing up my schooling then [in 2006]. But I think it'll affect other students that are just starting out in their first year. It was tough enough for me my first year to adapt to the big city, and being away from home."

Revenue Canada's Labonte went on to say, however, that the majority of Aboriginal students would not be affected.

"The average student still wouldn't pay any tax at all, even with the education amounts provided by Indian Affairs," she said, citing the fact that only when a student's income reaches \$16,000 will they be taxed at a rate of 16 per cent.

"There are bursaries, tax credits and a personal non-taxable limit of \$8,000 that makes up the total of \$16,000 in non-taxable income."

The AFN has lobbied hard against the idea and were able to guarantee a two-year moratorium until Native groups look at the issue in-depth.

"The bottom line is education is a right that's guaranteed in the treaties," said Don Kelly, a spokesman for the AFN, who said that regardless how many Native students would be affected, even one is too much. "Students should be encouraged, not dissuaded from pursuing their education."

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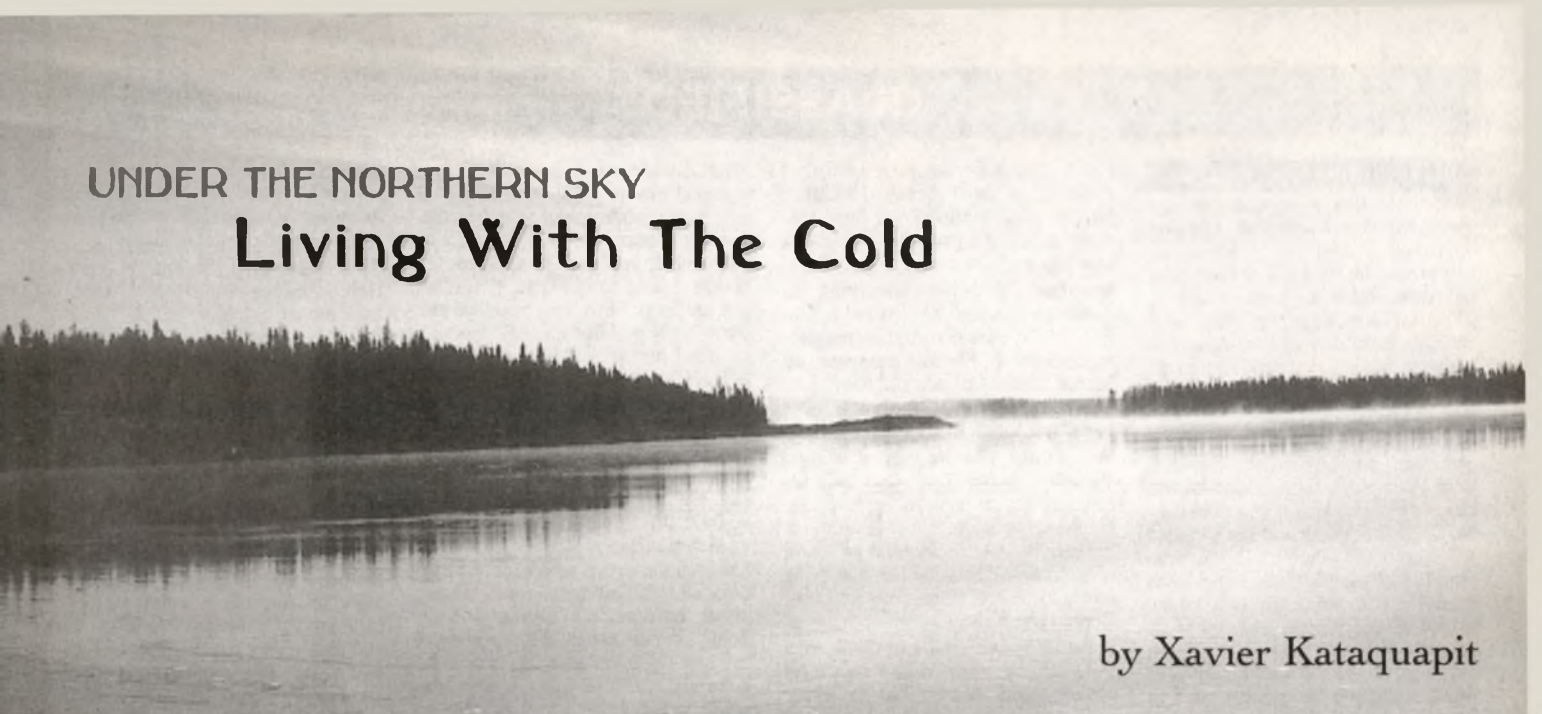
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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Living With The Cold

by Xavier Kataquapit

Recently, I woke up early in the morning to shovel out the driveway after a long, drawn-out winter storm that had dropped over a foot of snow on the ground. As soon as I stepped out I could feel the cold seep through my layers of clothes. The frigid air literally took my breath away. I was happy to have a scarf covering most of my face. The temperature had dropped below minus 30 and was reported as being about minus 50 with wind chill taken into account. I am accustomed to this weather as I have worked out in freezing temperatures on a regular basis up in Attawapiskat since I was a kid.

My memories of frostbite encouraged me to pay close attention to my face and extremities. I kept moving to stay warm but not to overexert myself so as to sweat beneath my clothes. Once you start sweating in this temperature you begin to freeze. As I worked, my toque and scarf kept moving out of place and I found my cheeks and ears becoming exposed. Just a few moments of exposure left me with a stinging chill on my ear lobes and my face.

This frosty morning reminded me of the days when I was a child and I played in the snow and on the ice with my friends in Attawapiskat. The cold never seemed to affect our hunger for play. As children, we enjoyed the freezing winter weather as it provided a new environment for all of us to discover. On top of that it was a constantly changing scene as snow fell and blew around at the whim of strong winds off the James Bay. Most of the time, we enjoyed skating and playing hockey at the local rink. On days when it went below minus 30 or 40, we exchanged our skates for warm winter boots and we played boot hockey or shinny.

As a young boy I remember seeing my older siblings, cousins and their friends thinking it unfashionable or old fashioned to wear a toque or scarf outside. Every young person seemed to think that warm headgear was

out of style. When I was about nine or ten, I became fashion conscious and I parked my fur-lined hat at home when I went out to be with my friends. I thought it normal to walk to school or play hockey with no hat. I also remember paying for this line of thinking with frost-bitten ears every year until I was about 15 years old.

After several years of freezing my ear lobes on a regular basis I had some sort of winter epiphany and somehow grasped that when I did not wear a hat in the freezing cold my ears would freeze. Unfortunately, my troubles with frostbite resurfaced from time to time. Later on I was allowed to take the family snowmobile for a ride. That began my education in wind chill. Now, I found out that it was necessary to wrap myself up from head to toe to make sure I did not get frostbite. On a few occasions during a joy ride out on the land I remember feeling the familiar tingle of cold on my face. I was a little worse off than my friends because I wore metal rimmed glasses. There are few things as painful as the feeling of frigid metal against one's face. I experimented with headgear until I found the perfect solution. The result left me looking like an Egyptian mummy wildly racing through the white and frozen wilderness on my snowmobile.

After a long day of working in the cold with dad and my brothers it was good to know that a warm fire and a hot meal was waiting for us with mom back home. I always felt a great sense of relief and exhilaration when I came back in from the cold. It felt good to sit down with my feet by a heat register, my snowpants on and my parka piled loosely around me as I sat back on the living room couch. I would take my time taking the rest of my warm clothes off and I just sat back and relaxed while sipping on a cup of hot tea. I savoured this time, as I knew that work would call and I would have to head back out into the frozen world far too soon.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS - 100

We would like to congratulate our niece Melissa Capassissit and her boyfriend Gabriel Shecapio-Blacksmith on the birth of their baby girl Abriel Rosemary born on January 25 @ 3:17 am, weighing 8 lbs and 5 oz. Take good care of her, remember it always takes 2, she needs both parents always! Love Always Judy, Alex, Ray and Karissa Capississit,

I just want to congratulate my parents Jean- Marc & Irene Wapachee from Waswanipi for the birth of our little sister, who was born in February 04, 2005 at 8:45 am and she weighed 8,9 lb and measured 18 1/2 inches. Well I finally have a little sister I was the only girl in the family, now we are two of us and we can team up to do things to tease our brothers. So watch out Boys we are coming, we are your worst nightmare lol.... So good luck Boys. Naaaah! I'm just so happy and I wish you the best little sist in your future. We have the best parents in the world and they will take good care of you just like they did with us. Love always your big sister Vicky Wapachee....

BIRTHDAYS - 101

Happy 19th Birthday on February 8 to Kerrie Hester. You are so special and we love you! Love, Mom & Dad, Brad, Desiree, Destinee, Dustyn, Josiah, Zachariah, and Ezekiel.

Blake Bosum my big little brother happy belated Birthday his birthday was on February 8 I hope you had a good time on your 24th birthday. I can't believe your 24 years old, to me you'll always be my baby brother even 10 years from now. I love you very much don't forget that. Love always Olivia Couchees.

For a special person in my life her birthday is on February 18, Esther Simard. Happy Birthday I hope you enjoy your gift I gave you. Oh yeah I love you too! Love always Duckie!..)

Sending Birthday Greetings to Katie-Joy Matoush who will turn 5 on Feb. 24 (Mississini). And to my college googoom, Sheila Chakapash, on March 1st. (Gatineau)....May you both be blessed with many more birthdays. Much Love, Jayden.

We would like to say a Happy Birthday to our Dad, grandpa, his birthday is on Feb-20 and to our Nephew, cuzzin, his name is Sebastien Coon-Come, he's in Mist...also on Feb-20.....And many more to come from Nancy, Kelly, Romeo and Kyle.

I would like to send a birthday wish to Dinah Hester in Wask Happy 19th birthday and many more to come. Enjoy your day P.S party or what? From the party girls.

On January 31st, 1981, I gave birth to a very beautiful little girl and today, she has grown into a beautiful young woman, the mother of three precious girls. How time flies. It seems like yesterday, that I held this little girl in my arms and already, she is celebrating her 24th birthday. When I first held you in my arms, I vowed that I would always take care of you and love you. Today, I still try to keep the vow I had made. So, happy belated birthday, Shawna and may you have many more birthdays ahead. Love always, Mom

I want to wish my mom, Shawna Tomatuk, a happy belated birthday. Her b/day was on January 31st. With my everyday chores, I completely forgot to send her this greeting. Anyways mom, it is better late than never right?

Mom, I want you to know that I love you and always will, even though I live with grandma and grandpa, that doesn't mean I love you less. Remember, you gave birth to me, of course, I have to love you, (ha,ha,ha, just kidding). I love you, you love me, we're a happy family.... AH! Enough of this, I just wanted to say "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and many, many more to come, alright? Your daughter Amanda T.

On February 11th, a very special man in my life will celebrate his birthday. He spoils me endlessly and he really, really loves me. So I want to wish him a Happy Birthday, and may he celebrate many, many more birthdays ahead. This man, I am talking about is my grandfather, Johnny Tomatuk. I do not call him grandpa, I call him DAD, because that is what he is to me. "MY DAD". I want the world to know that I love my dad so much. Love, Amanda T. (T'sh)

On February 11th, our grandpa, Johnny Tomatuk will celebrate his birthday. We want to wish him a "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and many more to come, ok? He will celebrate his big day in Ottawa this year. (At the casino, right?) We love you, dad! Love, Amanda, Mercedes and Brayden

We would like to wish a Happy 68th Birthday to a wonderful Dad and Grandpa on February 7th 2005 and his name is Allan Ottereyes Sr. from Waswanipi and many more Birthdays to come. Hope your day is as special as you are. We Love You Very Much! Love always, Your Daughter Donna, Jonathan and Your Granddaughter Brianna (a.k.a. Gagoos)

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to a wonderful Mother and Grandmother Rosie Tanoush from Nemaska on Feb. 21 2005. Hope your day be as special as you are and don't forget to have fun because you deserve it! We love you so much! With love, your son Jonathan, Donna and your granddaughter Brianna Tanoush (a.k.a. Gagoos) from Waswanipi.

We would like to say Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Birthday to these following people: Ronnie House on Feb. 14, Cecile Lameboy and Leonard Chewanish on Feb. 15,

Richard Pepabano and Sebastian Coon-Come on Feb. 20, 2005, and many many more birthdays to come. From Maya & Roger (Chisasibi).

To Doodoo girl: We want to wish u Happy belated 4th b-day. I hope u have fun when u blow out your 4 candles. May God Bless you. With love Joomshum & KooKum Moar. xxx's & OOO's.

I would like to wish a Happy 4th b-day 2 my adorable niece Glorianna Picard on Feb.7 & also 2 my grandpa Walter on Feb.25. Happy Valentines Day too. Love ya both. With love Rhodashee (k)(l)(k)

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to our "second" mom Nina Metabie who will be celebrating her birthday on February 26. Have fun and enjoy your day!! We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done for us and for always being there...We love you, from: Alysia, Hailey and Audrey Petawabano.

On February 15 a special Little Angel by the name of Kristen Michelle Quinn, celebrated her 1st Birthday. Happy Birthday Little one. Luv, Angelina & Joylene Brien.

We would like to wish our grandma Emily Swallow a Happy Birthday on February 15. We want to thank you for your unconditional love and your no charge babysitting services. We just love spending time at your place cause you never tell us "NO" like our parents do. We want to thank you for all you've done for us Goo-kum Emily. We love you so much, we're happy to call you "Our Goo-kum". Enjoy your day and also Happy Valentine's day to you and Joomshoom Philip. Love your grandchildren: Natasha, Andrew, Suzanne, Hannah, Danielle, Mark and baby Malachi.

We wanna wish our baby sister Mary Louise Swallow a happy belated 19th birthday on February 13, 2005. We are very thankful to have you as our baby sister. We wouldn't trade you for anything not even for money *LOL* Thank you soo much for doing the things you do around the house when we are very lazy and tired at times. Oh and the little annoying things you do to us. That's what sisters are for. Never forget that no matter what happens in



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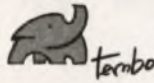
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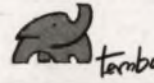
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CLASSIFIEDS

life we will always LOVE you. Once again and again throughout the whole year happy birthday baby. Love always your sisters Erika and Lillan, Amanda Swallow.

Our beautiful mother Emily Swallow will be celebrating her birthday on February 15. Mom, you never failed to tell us how much we mean to you, you show it in many ways, by the things you do cause there's no love like a mother's love. You fill our lives with sunshine, which brightens up our days. Thank you for always believing in us even when we doubt ourselves but most of all for accepting us by our mistakes. Thank you for being you, we couldn't ask for a better mom. Happy Birthday and enjoy your day. Much love...from your daughters Erica, Lillian, Amanda and Mary Swallow (Mistissini).

Happy Birthday to our sis' in law Kathleen Capassit on February 20. May you have a wonderful day in the bush, and that you will be eating rabbit and dumplings on your birthday instead of Kentucky! Love Always your bro Ray and sis in law Judy and niece Karissa and Alex xoxo.

Hello and Happy Belated Birthdays! to the following: My niece in Moose Factory Bryanna Weapenicappo it was on January 27, to my bro Ken Wesley on January 28, and to my other bro Stephen Wesley on February 9. Hope you all had a wonderful day!! Love from Judes in Oujebougoumou and Alex (also a Happy Valentine's to all my family in Ontario.) I Miss you all!!

Happy 11th Birthday to our son Danny Visitor on March 4. May you have many more birthdays. You mean the world to us. The day you were born, I thanked our Creator for you being my son. We wish you all the

best in life. We love you so much. From: Mom & Dad.

Happy Birthday to my only brother Danny Visitor on March 4. I love you sooooo much. From: your little sister Emma-Joyce Visitor.

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to our uncle Micheal Nab and our nephew Seth Nabinacaboo, they will be celebrating their birthdays on February 28. From: Margaret, Jennifer, Abraham-James Nabinacaboo and Bernard Aster in Kawawachikamach.

I would like to say Happy belated Birthdays to the following people in the month of Feb., first Edna-Rose Matthew on Feb. 3, Jerry Sam on Feb.16, James and Nathan both on Feb. 20, and Austin and Winnie both on Feb. 23. HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!! From: BEVERLY (in Chisasibi).

We would like to say Happy 7th Birthday to our son and a brother Austin Sam on Feb-23-2005 and many more to come. We love you so much, enjoy your day! From:(Mom & Dad) Beverly, Tommy and your little brother Antoine.

We would like to say Happy 1st Birthday to Cyrus Ottereyes on February 5th, 2005 in Mistissini. Hey Cyrus I hope you had fun on your birthday, many more birthdays to come....X.o.X.o.X.o.X. Love from:S.S. & E.S (Wemindji)

We would like to say Happy Birthday to Leonard Matoush on Feb 17th, 05, in Mistissini. I really hope you will have fun on your special day. Once again Happy Birthday brother, and many more birthdays to come X.o.X.o.X. from your sister & your-brother-in-law (Wemindji).

We would like to say Happy Birthday to Allen Matoush on Feb 21st, 05 in Mistissini. I really hope

you will have fun on your birthday...Please don't party on your birthday it's not worth it drinking, you will just have a hangover, PLEASE...Once again Happy Birthday and many more birthdays to come..X.o.X.o.X. From: your sister & ur brother-in-law (Wemindji).

On a very special day, a very special grandmother would have celebrated her 85th birthday, to my late grandmother DAISY GEORGEKISH-COWBOY (Feb 14). It will be 13 yrs on April 4, since she passed away. It doesn't seem that long ago, I still miss her everyday and have tears when I think of her, still today I wish she were here I miss her so much. I know she is up there somewhere and she can hear me. Happy Birthday & Happy Valentine's day Grandma. With love always, your granddaughter Barbara (Wask.) DAISY GEORGEKISH-COWBOY: February 14, 1920 - April 4th 1992.I remember your soft and gentle hands, reaching out to dry my tears; I remember your warm and loving arms, that chased away my fears. You were someone I could run to, who always made sure you were there; an ear that would patiently listen, you were someone who always cared. There's something rare and wonderful, God placed in a grandmother's heart; something he knew I would need, right from the very start. Heaven has a place reserved for grandmother's sweet and kind; but I had a little heaven on earth, in the grandmother i called mine.

Sisters are special to each other. My sister is really special to me, her birthday is on March 3 and her name is Mina Rosa Bosum. I hope you have a nice time on your B-Day. Take good care of your self. Love Olivia Couchees.

Happy Birthday Shirley C. Moar who will celebrate her birthday on March 12. I am so blessed and thankful to have such a sweet aunt and namesake like you. I hope all your wishes come true when you blow out your candles. Love always with hugs and kisses: Jordanna June Moses (Wask.)

Belated Birthday wishes to our pride and joy Trinity Emma Grace Shecapio who celebrated her first Birthday on February 4, 2005. You make every day shine. Love you lots. Happy 1st Birthday baby Trinity. Love: Mommy, Daddy and Neesha-Chanan.

I would like to wish my friend Carrie-Ann Cox a happy belated birthday on Feb.23, 2005. Once again happy birthday buddy! From: Alice

I would like to wish my son Collin-Jeremiah Pepabano "Boyshe" a happy 3rd birthday on March 22, 2005. Wow! Already 3, and you're gonna start going to school next year. I just want you to know that I love you soo much and I'm trying very hard to finish school because I really want to raise you with a normal life. I love you with all my heart and I'm so happy to have you in my life. Once again, happy birthday baby boy and have fun on your special day. Love always, Mommy (Alice).

Happy 12th birthday to my silly and funny brother Norman'sh Pepabano. I love you and have fun on your birthday. Love, your big sis Alice and Collin'sh.

We would like to wish a happy 10th birthday to our son/brother Romeo Napash on March 1st. Enjoy ur day! We love you sooooo much. From Mom, Dad & Kyle.



The CSB has celebrated it's 25th anniversary!



In honour of this milestone, the CSB will be taking a look back at its rich history, its humble beginnings, its hard-fought journey and its ultimate triumph in a **special commemorative booklet**. To do this, we need your help!

Were you a **student** the very first year? Were you a **teacher** who stepped in front of the classroom for the first time over twenty-plus years ago? Were you one of the **founders** of the Cree School Board who helped fight to make the dream a reality? We'd love to hear your stories, see your photos and publish your wonderful memories within the pages of this booklet.

To participate in this project, please call or write to Zadie Jacobs at Beesum Communications at the contact information below.

These are your stories. Your accomplishments. Help us **celebrate 25 years of Cree success** and determination, where **"Students come First"**.

email: sjacobs@beesum-communications.com

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The Last Line

When the levee breaks



by Ndiamon

My sympathies go out to our friends and colleagues at Hydro Quebec regarding the recent beatings they've endured in the Quebec media.

It all started when an ungrateful Radio-Canada TV crew broke through HQ's wall of security at one of their installations, embarrassing President Andre (Monsieur Caille to his Cree friends) Caille and his loyal sentries. Understandably, Caille tried to stop the news piece from being aired, employing his multitude of lawyers and citing "national security" as the reason for the injunction. And then, a grave injustice, the judge, no Solomon he, ruled in favour of the network and the story broke.

Within hours la merde hit the fan in Premier Charest's office and Caille was called in to lick some Liberal feet before cleaning up the place and ridding it of its foul stench. Word was sent to the corporation's troops to double security lickety split. The entire Cree and Quebecois nations slept soundly that night knowing that Osama's henchmen had been thwarted in their plans to cut the flow of energy to Montreal and Springfield, Massachusetts.

In no time at all, a copy cat crew from the TVA network penetrated another installation and, wanting only to embarrass the Creebecois Nation, gleefully aired their story. This time, la merde clogged up the fans, causing political fuses to blow and send Monsieur Caille into a massive blackout. As a result, Johnny Charest's premiership and Andy Caille's presidency are both skating on thin ice well before spring breakup. For shame!

As a lowly yet loyal Creebecois citizen, I can only do my small part in defending our freedom and profits by

offering a few simple suggestions to our brave security forces. Armed guards posted at all HQ buildings, gates, dikes, roads and dams. While we're at it we should even outfit them in spiffy SS-like uniforms that command respect. You know how some Cree women like a man in uniform. Vicious and hungry Rottweillers, Doberman Pinschers and German Shepherds can also strike fear in our enemies as they run them down. Release the hounds I say. State-of-the-art armoured vehicles should be on patrol around the clock. Known Cree

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dissidents who refuse to comply with the New Order should be required to sport bright armbands emblazoned with a stylized goose in flight. That'll show 'em. Finally and most importantly, security personnel should be given the right to arrest and hold without charges anyone found wandering around HQ sites wizzout ze proper papers. And ve should defelop vays of making zem talk, jah?

Long before Grand Chief Ted Moses forged our glorious alliance with Hydro Quebec, a friend and I once snuck through the security gate outside Radisson. We committed this crime not to sabotage Hydro Quebec but to go for a few drinks in their bar and hopefully spend the night. My friend breathlessly described to me the many won-

ders and delights to be had in Radisson. The bar, the liquor store and comfortable accommodations. Impressionable young lad that I was, and desperate for a bit of adventure, I was easily swayed. He secured a ride to the end of the Chisasibi road and we started hitchhiking towards the town. Within minutes a truck with a crew cab picked us up and we hid in the back and he was waved through the gate. The lights of Radisson shone brightly above the surrounding hills as we approached and we could taste the excitement that lay ahead. Our plan was to check into the hotel, stock up on snacks and drinks for the party afterwards, freshen up a bit and head down to the bar. Simple.

We were not greeted with a smile at the reception counter when we asked for a room for two. Instead she told us to wait and picked up the phone and dialled a number. Within minutes two men in uniform entered the lobby and demanded to know how we had passed through the gate. I sang like a canary and described the guy who had smuggled us in. Our names and statements were taken and then we were escorted to a waiting security vehicle and dumped off at the Chisasibi turnoff. Now that was security Hydro Quebec could depend on back then.

I can't help feeling that once most Crees were no longer considered a potential threat HQ let their guard down just a bit, completely forgetting that there are other forces out there that are still out to get them. And that in their rush to add to the billions in profit churned out of Cree rivers by stinting on security, Monsieur Caille et al just might not be ready when threat comes in a different form than two boys out for a night of debauchery.



***** NOTICE OF COMMUNITY TOUR *****
Cree School Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Chairman of the Cree School Board, Mr. William Mianscum will be conducting a community tour on education during the months of February and March 2005.

The purpose of this tour is to give information to the Cree Nation on issues that affect the overall success in our schools. We will give the public our three-year pedagogical plans, some statistics that show success rates, absenteeism and other information that will stimulate and seek them to support the changes needed in our schools. The School Board is moving to improve the situations that cast a shadow in our academic performances in our schools.

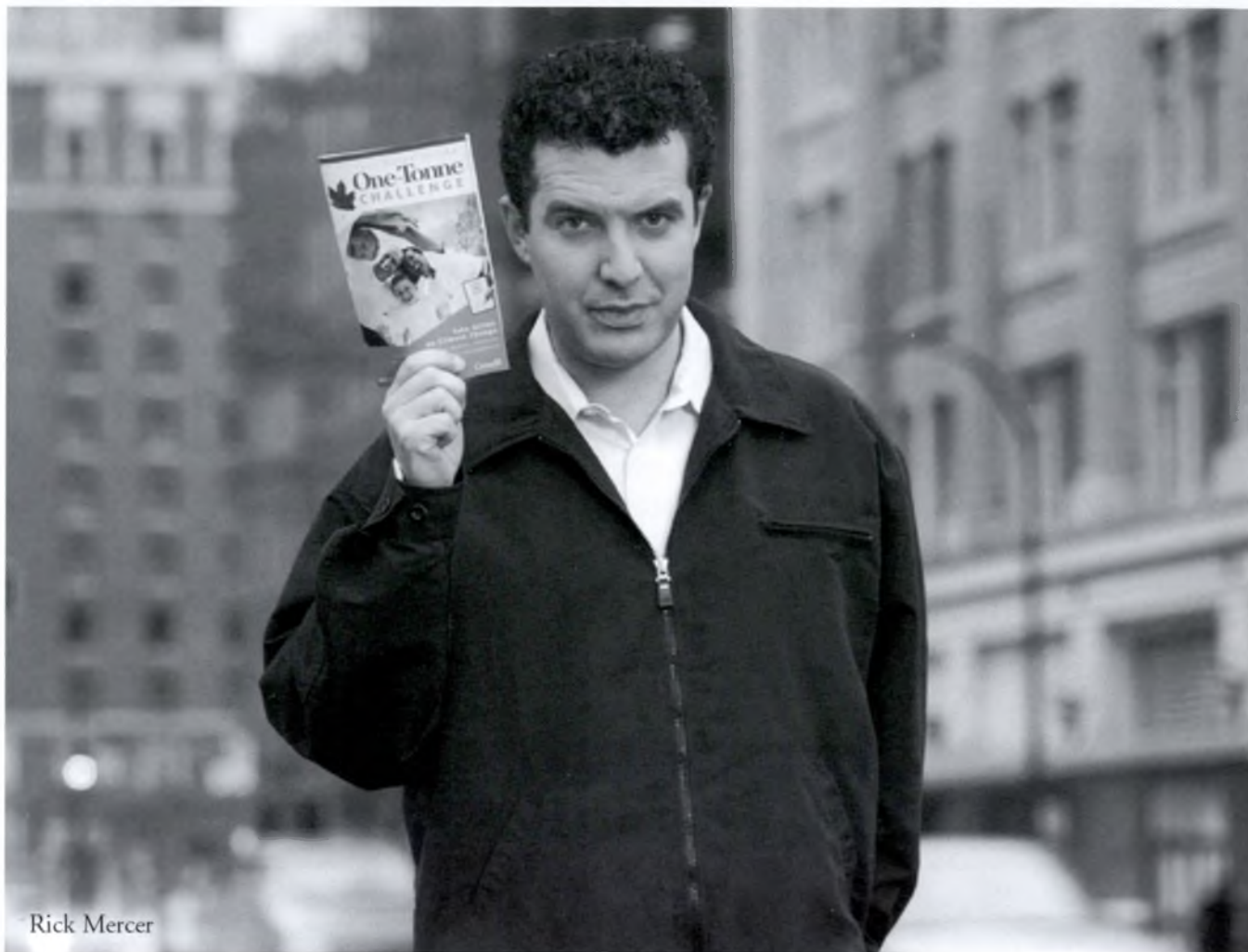
We would like to seek support for measures we propose as a School Board to enhance the overall success rate in our schools.

We encourage you the parents/guardians, teachers to come and listen on issues related to Cree education.

The following is the schedule for the tour:

➤ Chisasibi	February 7th and 8th
➤ Whapmagoostui	February 9th and 10th
➤ Wemindji	February 21st and 22nd
➤ Eastmain	February 23rd and 24th
➤ Waskaganish	March 7th and 8th
➤ Nemaska	March 9th and 10th
➤ Waswanipi	March 14th and 15th
➤ Ouje-Bougoumou	March 16th and 17th
➤ Mistissini	March 29th and 30th

For more information, please contact the Cree School Board head office at (418) 923-2764 or your local school administration.



Rick Mercer

Every Canadian loves a challenge, right?

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FIRST NATIONS PAVILION



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the campaign and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Daniel Rivard, Regional Manager La Grande Rivière and Production Manager at Hydro-Québec**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the campaign and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Francis Dessureault, Vice President Environment at Tembec**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the campaign and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Jacques Perron, First Vice President Canada at Cambior**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the fundraising and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Guy Labonté, Operations Manager, and M. Reggy Mark, Vice President at Petronor**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the fundraising and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Claude Baril, Director at Marcel Baril Ltd.**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the campaign and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Luc Michaud, General Manager at Norbord Inc., Val-d'Or plant**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.

Thanks for your support!



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Fax : (819) 797-4727

E-mail : pierre.lafontaine@uqat.ca



L. to r. : Mr. Pierre Lafontaine, General Director of UQAT Foundation, Mr. Fernand Trahan, Co-president of the campaign and Mayor of Val-d'Or, **Mr. Richard Dubeau, associate Vice President at Royal Bank of Canada**, and Dr. Ted Moses, Co-president of the campaign and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.